CITRIS Student Engagement

CITRIS and the Banatao Institute foster a strong entrepreneurial community for students through facilities and programs in our "invention ecosystem."

These programs create a pipeline for students to develop ideas, technologies and business plans, providing a path to guide them from dorm room to boardroom. Among the programs are the CITRIS Foundry startup accelerator, CITRIS Tech for Social Good, CITRIS Mobile App Challenge, Big Ideas Competition, and hackathons—many of which leverage the facilities and expertise within the CITRIS Invention Lab rapid prototyping facility.

CITRIS and the Banatao Institute also collaborates with more than 20 student-led organizations across all four CITRIS campuses, and provides connections to campus programs such as Skydeck, CalHacks, Sutardja Center for Entrepreneurship & Technology at UC Berkeley, the Senior Engineering Design Program at UC Santa Cruz, and the Engineering Student Startup Center at UC Davis.

Tech for Social Good

In parallel with the successful CITRIS Seed Funding Program for faculty innovators, the new CITRIS Tech for Social Good (TSG) Program supports student ingenuity and initiatives. Undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students are eligible to apply for TSG funding for projects that further the CITRIS mission and promote healthy, sustainable, connected, and equitable livelihoods in the United States and abroad.

Launched in 2016 at UC Berkeley and UC Davis, the TSG program currently offers two tracks: Tech Development and Events & Programming. In Spring 2017, CITRIS announced 16 student-led projects that won competitive funding.

Learn more about the CITRIS Tech for Social Good Program at berkeley.techsocialgood.org and davis.techsocialgood.org.

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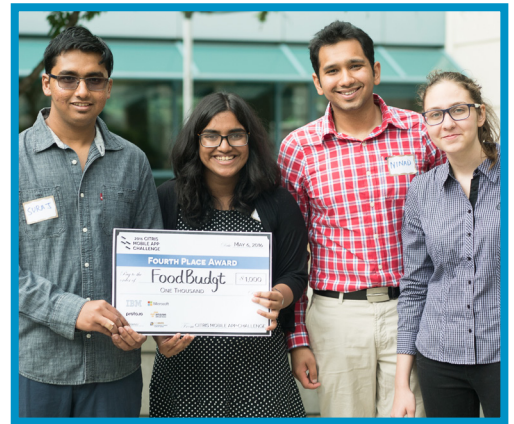
CITRIS Student Engagement

Mobile App Challenge

To promote innovation, community service, and career development among University of California students, CITRIS at UC Merced hosts a semester-long competition for the best mobile apps that address identified needs in Connected Communities & Civic Tech, Health & Wellness, People & Robots, and Sustainability & the Environment.

Over the course of a semester, students develop apps while receiving mentorship and guidance from CITRIS faculty and staff, entrepreneurs, developers, non-profit leaders and prospective clients.

The challenge culminates with a public pitch competition at the end of the semester where teams give short presentations and are awarded prizes in various categories.

Learn more about the CITRIS Mobile App Challenge at mobileappchallenge.ucmerced.edu.

Big Ideas

Big Ideas is an annual contest aimed at providing funding, support, and encouragement to interdisciplinary teams of students who have "big ideas." Since its founding in 2006, Big Ideas has inspired innovative and high-impact student-led projects aimed at solving problems that matter to this generation.

CITRIS sponsors the 'IT for Society' category which recognizes student ideas that demonstrate the capacity of information technology to address a significant societal challenge. In 2017, 4 winners in this category were selected from a competitive pool of more than 45 proposals from 8 UC campuses. These innovative projects shared a total of $20,000 in prizes.

Learn more about Big Ideas at bigideas.berkeley.edu.

CITRIS AND THE BANATAO INSTITUTE